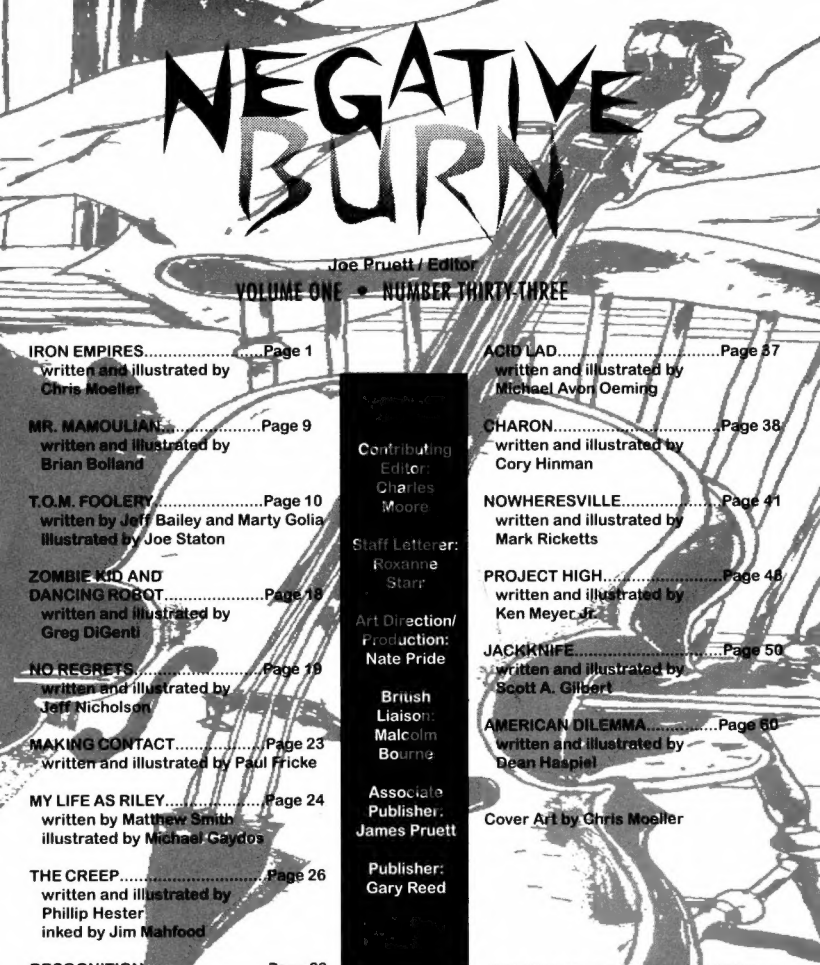
CALIBER
COMICS
ISSUE 33
$3.95 USA $5.50 CAN
NEGATIVE
BURN
JEFF BAILEY
CORY HINMAN
BRIAN BOLLAND
TIM HOLTROP
GREG DiGENTI
JIM MAHFOOD
PAUL FRICKE
KEN MEYER JR.
JIM FRIER
CHRIS MOELLER
MICHAEL GAYDOS
JEFF NICHOLSON
SCOTT A. GILBERT
MICHAEL AVON OEMING
MARTY GOLIA
MARK RICKETTS
DEAN HASPIEL
MATTHEW SMITH
PHILLIP HESTER
JOE STATON
64 PAGES



Joe Pruett / Editor

VOLUME ONE • NUMBER THIRTY-THREE

IRON EMPIRES.....Page 1
written and illustrated by Chris Moeller

MR. MAMOULIAN.....Page 9
written and illustrated by Brian Bolland

T.O.M. FOOLERY.....Page 10
written by Jeff Bailey and Marty Golia
illustrated by Joe Staton

ZOMBIE KID AND DANCING ROBOT.....Page 18
written and illustrated by Greg DiGenti

NO REGRETS.....Page 19
written and illustrated by Jeff Nicholson

MAKING CONTACT.....Page 23
written and illustrated by Paul Fricke

MY LIFE AS RILEY.....Page 24
written by Matthew Smith
illustrated by Michael Gaydos

THE CREEP.....Page 26
written and illustrated by Phillip Hester
inked by Jim Mahfood

RECOGNITION.....Page 29
written by Jim Frier
illustrated by Tim Holtrop

ACID LAD.....Page 37
written and illustrated by Michael Avon Oeming

CHARON.....Page 38
written and illustrated by Cory Hinman

NOWHERESVILLE.....Page 41
written and illustrated by Mark Ricketts

PROJECT HIGH.....Page 48
written and illustrated by Ken Meyer Jr.

JACKKNIFE.....Page 50
written and illustrated by Scott A. Gilbert

AMERICAN DILEMMA.....Page 60
written and illustrated by Dean Haspiel

Cover Art by Chris Moeller

Contributing Editor: Charles Moore

Staff Letterer: Roxanne Starr

Art Direction/ Production: Nate Pride

British Liaison: Malcolm Bourne

Associate Publisher: James Pruett

Publisher: Gary Reed

NEGATIVE BURN. Vol. 1-No. 33. Published by Caliber Comics 11904 Farmington Rd. Livonia MI 48150. NEGATIVE BURN™ and ©1996 by Charles Moore, James Pruett and Joe Pruett. "Iron Empires" and "Second Passage" and all characters, their names and their distinctive likenesses herein are ™ and © 1996 Christopher Moeller. MR. MAMOULIAN ©1996 by Brian Bolland. T.O.M. FOOLERY ©1996 by Jeff Bailey and Marty Golia, Artwork ©1996 Joe Staton. ZOMBIE KID AND DANCING ROBOT ©1996 by Greg DiGenti. NO REGRETS ©1996 by Jeff Nicholson. MAKING CONTACT ©1996 by Paul Fricke. MY LIFE AS RILEY ©1996 by Matthew Smith, Artwork ©1996 by Michael Gaydos. THE CREEP ©1996 by Phillip Hester. RECOGNITION ©1996 by Jim Frier, Artwork ©1996 by Tim Holtrop. ACID LAD ©1996 by Michael Avon Oeming. CHARON ©1996 by Cory Hinman. NOWHERESVILLE ©1996 by Mark Ricketts. PROJECT HIGH ©1996 by Ken Meyer, Jr. JACKKNIFE ©1996 by Scott A. Gilbert. AMERICAN DILEMMA ©1996 by Dean Haspiel. Any similarity without satirical purpose to a person, name, character, or institution is a coincidence.

Desperado Studios
P.O. Box 893
Acworth, GA
30101

CompuServe
72164,1134

SUBSCRIPTIONS

USA 6 issues $24.00 / 12 issues $48.00
Canada/Overseas 6 issues $33.00 /12 issues $66.00
Please make check or money order in U.S. Dollars payable to JOE PRUETT.
P.O. Box 893, Acworth, GA 30101

PROLOGUE

WHEN THE *CRUSADERS* CAME TO TORELL IN THE YEAR 532, I FOUGHT *AGAINST* THEM. IT WAS MY *JOB*.

DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE CRISIS, MY COMMANDER, *BARON ELIAS*, ASSASSINATED HIS RIVAL, THE COUNT OF TORELL.

HE GAVE *MY* TEAM THE TASK OF *"MOPPING UP"*--

--OF *EXECUTING* THE COUNT'S WIFE AND 3-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER.

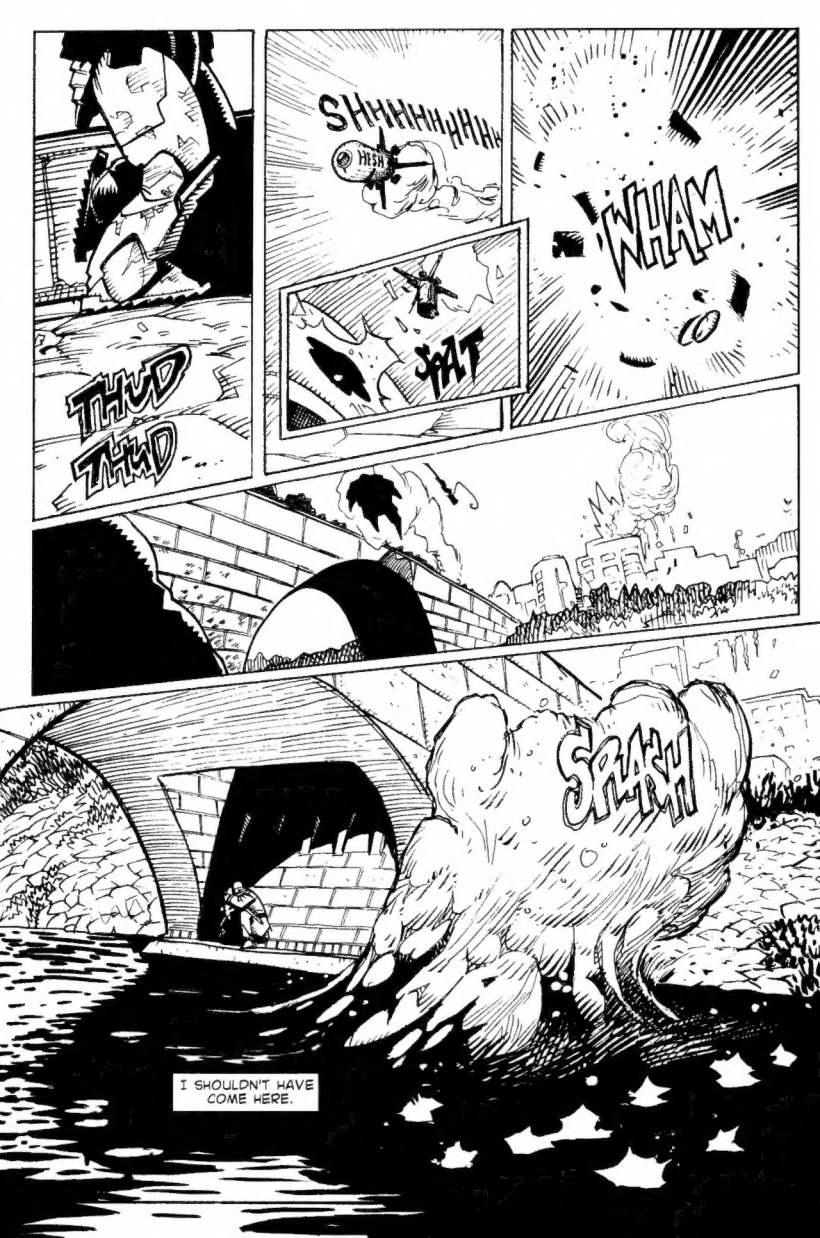
THE REST OF MY TEAM LIES DEAD NOW, *BURIED* WITH THE MOTHER THEY MURDERED IN THE CHAPEL THEY DESECRATED.

MY TITLE WAS ONCE *LORD PILOT HANO KHAZAR*. NOW IT'S TRAITOR ...OUTLAW...ASSASSIN... TAKE YOUR PICK.

BUT THIS *LITTLE GIRL* THINKS OF ME AS HER *PROTECTOR*. NOT MUCH OF ONE AGAINST THE COLD OF THE WORLD, BUT I'M *ALL* SHE'S GOT.

AND NOW I'VE BROUGHT HER DOWN FROM THE HILLS, HUNGRY AND RAGGED...

THWOOM
CHHT CHHT CHHT CHHT
I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE.


THUD
THUD
SHHHHHHHHH
HISS
SPAT
WHAM
SPLASH
I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE.

AT LEAST THE LITTLE COUNTESS HAS STOPPED SCREAMING.
NOT THAT ANYONE WOULD HEAR HER IN THIS DIN.
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THERE'D BE CRUSADERS HIDING OUT IN A TOWN THIS BIG.
SHHEEEEEEEE
BOOM
A DISTANT COUGH, AND A SOUND LIKE RIPPING LINEN.
SHEEEEEEE
EEEEE
SHEEEEEE
WHOOM
WHOOM

LITTLE COUNTESS!
WHOOM
WHOOM
Hkk'k
PLEASE...
AUH-HKkkk
IT'S OKAY, PRINCESS...
I'VE GOT YOU.

BOOM BOOM
I DON'T THINK SHE WAS HIT WITH ANYTHING...
THAT'S IT...
SHE'S NOT HURT.
PRAISE AHMILAHK.
WHU-WHU-WHU-
BWOOM BMMM
AAAAHHHH! ...I DON'T WANT IT!
SHHHH... WE'RE SAFE NOW.
WE JUST NEED A PLACE TO WAIT THIS OUT.

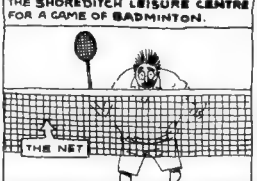
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, HONEY. YOU JUST SWALLOWED SOME OF THE RIVER IS ALL.
WHOOMP
KRAK KRAK KRAK KRAK KRAK
I WANT MAMAM! I NEED HER!
LITTLE COUNTESS...
I NEED HER...I NEED HER...
LITTLE COUNTESS, PLEASE FORGIVE ME...
NO...I DON'T WANT YOU...
MAMAM!
IBERIS ...STOP!
IBERIS?

HISSSSSS
IBERIS, WHAT IS IT?
TO BE CONTINUED IN ISSUE #35.
95

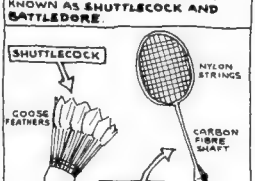
MR. MAMOULIAN
BADMINTON

6.9.88 Boland 36

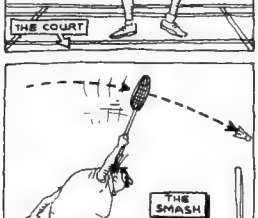
EVERY FRIDAY EVENING I GO DOWN TO THE SHOREDITCH LEISURE CENTRE FOR A GAME OF BADMINTON.

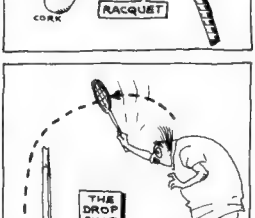


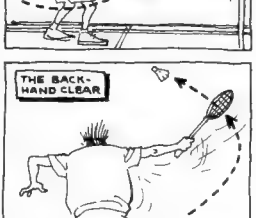
IN OLDEN DAYS THE GAME WAS KNOWN AS SHUTTLECOCK AND BATTLEDORE.

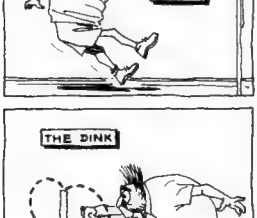


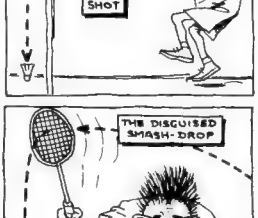
IT IS A GAME OF STAMINA AND SUBTLETY. EACH SHOT REQUIRES YEARS OF EXPERIENCE TO PERFECT.





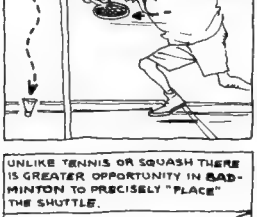




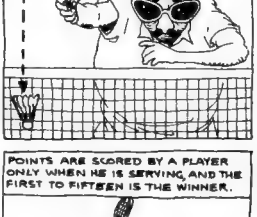


WHILE PLAYING DOUBLES IT REQUIRES GREAT SKILL TO "READ" YOUR PARTNER TO AVOID BOTH GOING FOR THE SAME SHOT.

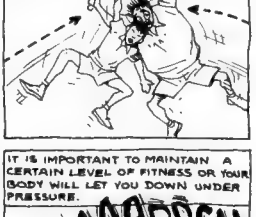
UNLIKE TENNIS OR SQUASH THERE IS GREATER OPPORTUNITY IN BADMINTON TO PRECISELY "PLACE" THE SHUTTLE.



POINTS ARE SCORED BY A PLAYER ONLY WHEN HE IS SERVING, AND THE FIRST TO FIFTEEN IS THE WINNER.



IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN A CERTAIN LEVEL OF FITNESS OR YOUR BODY WILL LET YOU DOWN UNDER PRESSURE.



IT SEEMS LIKE SOME PEOPLE CAN GO THROUGH LIFE WITHOUT A CARE. THEY'RE ALWAYS SMILING. THE WIND IS ALWAYS AT THEIR BACK AND THEIR BREAD NEVER GETS SQUASHED ON THE WAY HOME FROM THE GROCERY STORE.
BUT IT'S ALSO SAID THAT INTO EVERY LIFE A LITTLE RAIN MUST FALL... THAT A FEW GRAY CLOUDS ARE GOING TO COME YOUR WAY...
...OR A FALLING MAN'S GOING TO LAND IN YOUR ARMS AS YOU WALK UP THE SIDE OF A BUILDING!
T.O.M. Foolery™
TALES OF A MADMAN
Story by JEFF BAILEY MARTY GOLIA
Art by JOE STATON

SORRY ABOUT NOT LENDING YOU THE JACKET... WE'RE KIND OF INSEPARABLE.
FORGET IT... I'M EMBARRASSED ENOUGH AS IT IS. WHAT ABOUT THE GIRL?... DO YOU THINK THE CHARGES'LL STICK?
JUST DOWNTS
POLICE
YOUR STORY IS THAT YOU PAID FOR THE ROOM, THEN SHE HELPED HERSELF TO YOUR WALLET AND SHOVED YOU OUT THE WINDOW. EVEN IN THIS TOWN, YOU MIGHT HAVE A CASE.
POLICE DISCOUNT
"YOU MAKE YOUR REPORT. I'LL LOOK INTO THINGS IN MY OWN UNIQUE, IF NOT DAMAGE-INDUCING WAY."
BEEP!
ANTHONY AND I...
CAN SPEAK FOR MYSELF, MICHAEL...
WE DON'T SEE THAT WE HAVE ANYTHING TO LOSE BY LETTING THIS FOOLERY GENTLEMAN INVESTIGATE THESE ROBBERIES.
DAPHNE, DON'T THINK OF ME AS MAYOR. THINK OF ME AS YOUR FRIEND...AH, ON SECOND THOUGHT MAYBE YOU SHOULD THINK OF ME AS THE MAYOR. LET'S ALL JUST RELAX AND LET TOM HAVE A CRACK AT THIS LITTLE BIT OF THE...ER...I MEAN IF THAT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU!...
THAT'S WHAT I WAS...
BEEP!
TOM THIS, TOM THAT. I'M ALREADY FED UP WITH HIM!
IF YOU JUST TOOK THE TIME TO KNOW ME, YOU'D REALIZE I'M NOT A BAD GUY. HOW ABOUT A ROUND OF MINIATURE GOLF AT THE PUTTIN' PALACE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'M TALKING WITH YOU.
YOU WEREN'T INVITED.
WHAT IF I HAVE MY MOTHER CALL YOURS?
YOU'RE TRESPASSING. IT'S AGAINST THE LAW!
SOME THINGS ARE BIGGER THAN THE LAW— TAKE ROSANNE!
WHAT YOU WANT?
TO INVESTIGATE THESE ROBBERIES.
EVERYONE ELSE ON THE CITY COUNCIL THINKS YOU OUGHT TO... WHO AM I TO STAND IN THE WAY. GO AHEAD... KNOCK YOURSELF OUT!
NO THANKS, I'LL LEAVE THAT TO THE CRIMINAL MASTERMIND.

THE NEXT DAY AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS.
WE APPRECIATE YOU COMING DOWN HERE TODAY, MR FILMORE. YOUR DESCRIPTION OF THE THIEF WAS VERY... DESCRIPTIVE... IN FACT WE WERE ABLE TO NARROW IT DOWN TO JUST THREE SUSPECTS AND TWO OTHER HARMLESS PEOPLE THAT WE WANTED TO HASSLE.
THIS'LL BE A PIECE OF CAKE. LEMME SEE 'EM!
DONUTS
"TAKE YOUR TIME-- WE WANT YOU TO BE SURE."
"LET ME INTRODUCE SUSPECTS ONE, TWO AND THREE, SISTER MARY FOUR AND NUMBER FIVE, SEER TO THE STARS -- NOT THEIR REAL NAMES, BY THE WAY--SO TAKE YOUR TIME. BE SURE YOU MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION BEFORE YOU DRAG AN OTHERWISE INNOCENT PERSON THROUGH THE MUD."
6
5'6"
5
4'6"
YOU'RE THEIR LAWYER! HOW MUCH LONGER DO WE HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS? WE'VE GOT A FULL SCHEDULE OF SHOWS TO DO!
TAKE IT EASY, CHRIS. THEY DON'T HAVE A LEG TO STAND ON....
IT'S NUMBER ONE!
NO, NUMBER TWO!
MAYBE THREE!
CAN YOU HAVE THE NUN SAY, "I'M LITTLE BO PEEP AND I'VE LOST MY SHEEP!"?
LINEUP

MEANWHILE, ON THE BOARDWALK...
WELL, IT APPEARS OUR LOCAL "HERO" HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO SOLVE THIS LATEST PROBLEM.
FOR GOODNESS' SAKE, DAPHNE, IT TAKES US A MONTH OF DEBATE TO GIVE THE 'QUICK AND EASY' STORE PERMISSION TO INSTALL A SECOND MICROWAVE. LET'S GIVE THE MAN SOME TIME!
TOM
I WATCH TOM FOOLER BEAT THE MIDWAY BANDIT
CASINO
IN MEMORY

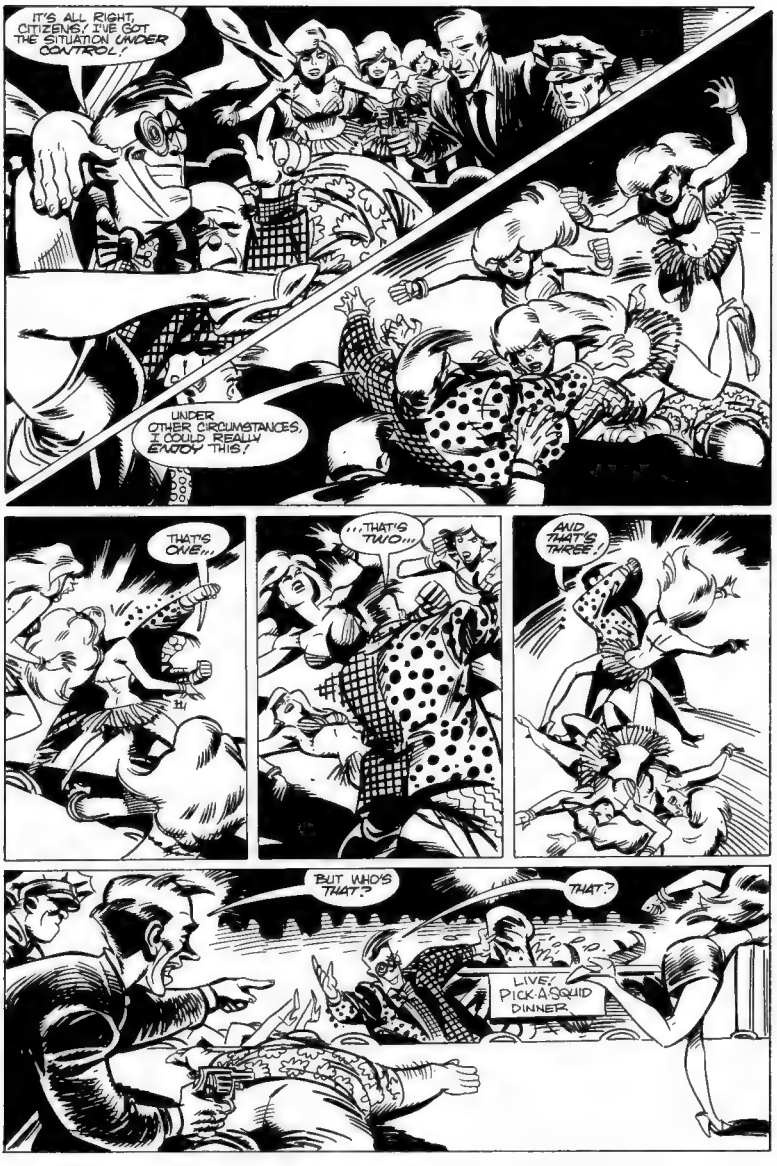
AND JUST WHAT KIND OF MAN IS HE? ISN'T AMMONIE BUT ME CONCERNED ABOUT HIS BACKGROUND?
HIS KIND USUALLY COME FROM HUMBLE, IF NOT TRAGIC, BEGINNINGS...
THAT EVENTUALLY BLOSSOMS INTO A FULL-BLOWN EXCUSE FOR WANTON VIGILANTISM.

BUT HAS ANNONE ELSE CHECKED THE INCREASE IN ROOM OCCUPANCY NUMBERS OR WON! ABOUT THE SUCCESS WITH 1-900-LIVE-TOM!?
AND THAT JUSTIFIES WHAT'S SURE TO BE AN INCREASE IN UNUSUAL CRIMINAL ACTIVITY? AND CERTAIN DECREASES IN PROPERTY VALUES?
AND ALL I GOT WAS THIS T SHIRT

THAT SO-CALLED CRIMINAL ELEMENT... WE'LL KEEP IT WHERE IT BELONGS, YOU WON'T SEE ANYTHING QUESTIONABLE GOING ON UNDER OUR NOSES!
CASINO
TONITE - ON STAGE - THE CANOLLI SISTERS
BEEP BEEP BEEP
IN MEMORY
NEWS CREW RUN DOWN!
WELCOME TO FRIENDLY FRIENDLY CITY

THAT NIGHT AT THE LAUGHING SQUID CASINO...
the FLYING CANOLLI SISTERS
ELEVATOR
I RESENT YOUR HARASSING MY SISTERS. YOU CAN'T PROVE THEY'VE DONE ANYTHING AGAINST THE LAW...
RELAX, CANOLLI! I'M JUST HERE TO MAKE SURE THAT THEIR SEQUIN-TO-FLESH RATIO CONFORMS TO CITY PENAL CODE 94652.
LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE FLYING CANOLLI SISTERS!
I'LL MAKE SURE THEY ALL GET TO THE DRESSING ROOM SAFELY.
YOU DO THAT!
NEARBY...
AND THERE GOES ANOTHER BIG WINNER, MR. TONY ESTOPOLIO, STAYING IN ROOM 623.
I HAVE A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE SENT UP TO MY ROOM, AND HERE... CALL THAT 900 NUMBER TONIGHT.
YES SIR, THANK YOU, SIR!
ding!
ROOM FOR ONE MORE?
ONLY IF YOU WANT TO SQUEEZE IN...

THAT'S QUITE AN ACT YOU GIRLS'VE GOT THERE. YOU KNOW ANY MORE TRICKS FOR ME?
WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER HERE AND FIND OUT.?
CONK!
I KNOW THREE'S A CROWD, BUT I FIGURE HE DOESN'T COUNT ANY MORE!
YAAAH!
I PROMISE NOT TO HIT YOU TOO HARD IF I DON'T HAVE TO SIT THROUGH ANOTHER ORIGIN STORY!
ONCE AGAIN, THE LAUGHING SQUID BRINGS YOU THE DANOLI SISTERS. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE TWO-DRINK MINIMUM IS IN EFFECT.
THIS COULD HURT. YOU'D BETTER BREAK MY FALL!
CRACK!
WUMP!


IT'S ALL RIGHT, CITIZENS! I'VE GOT THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL!
UNDER OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES, I COULD REALLY ENJOY THIS!
THAT'S ONE...
...THAT'S TWO...
AND THAT'S THREE!
BUT WHO'S THAT?
THAT?
LIVE! PICK-A-SQUID DINNER

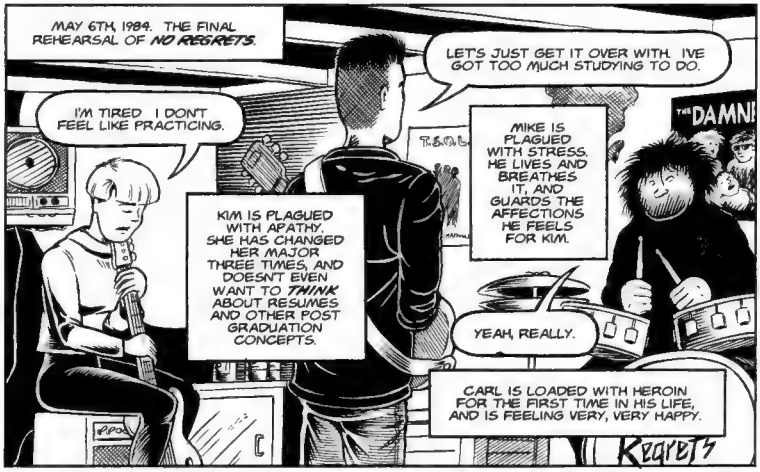
THAT'S THE PERSON NO ONE SUSPECTED...
...UNLESS YOU SKIPPED TO THE LAST PAGE!
THE BROTHER! AND I WAS READY TO PICK UP THE NUN!
THEY WERE ALL IN IT TOGETHER. THEY FIGURED THAT THREE GIRLS WOULD BE ENOUGH OF A SMOKESCREEN TO REMOVE ANY SUSPICIONS.
IT WAS ALWAYS WEARING THOSE HAND-ME-DOWNS! IT FINALLY GOT TO ME!
AND NO ONE WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVE THAT ANY OF THE GIRLS EVER DID ANYTHING!
BUT HOW DID...
...YOU FIGURE OUT...
...IT WAS HIM?
WELL, TO TELL THE TRUTH...
HE HAD THE BEST LEGS!
END

ZOMBIE KID AND DANCING ROBOT → IN "RESPECT"
BY GREG DIGENT
HEY, ZOMBIE KID, HOWDJA' LIKE TO GO TO THE MALL WITH ME? MY MOM'S DRIVIN'.
I HATE THE MALL.
REALLY? OH, I LOVE THE MALL.
I HATE YOUR MOM, TOO.
OH, COME ON, ZOMBIE KID, WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE SO HATEFUL? LIFE IS NICE.
LIFE SUCKS.
AND STOP DANCING BEFORE I RIP YOU APART!
I CAN'T HELP IT, I'M "DANCING ROBOT."
AND I HATE YOU.
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING YOU DON'T HATE?
I DON'T HATE WHEN YOU GO AWAY.
OKAY, ZOMBIE KID, I'LL LEAVE, BUT I REALLY WISH THAT YOU'D SHOW ME A LITTLE RESPECT.
IT'S HARD TO RESPECT A ROBOT THAT DANCES.
END

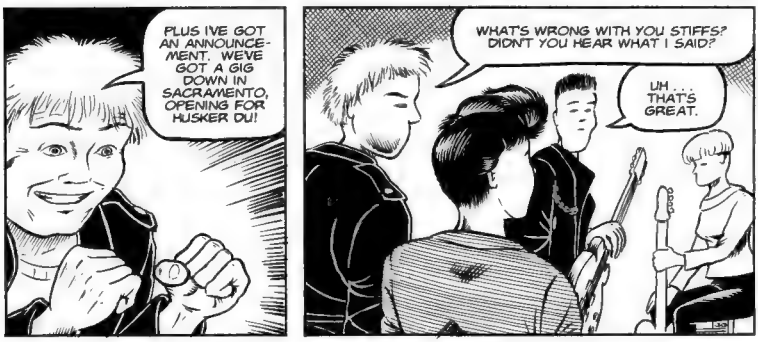
KIM IS HAVING THE DREAMS AGAIN. LIKE A TELEVISED SOAP OPERA, THEY PICK UP JUST WHERE THEY LEFT OFF, AND ARE AS EQUALLY ADDICTING. THEY'VE BECOME SO MORBID, ALTHOUGH THEY BEGAN SO ROMANTIC. SHE IS TEMPTED TO GO BACK TO THE DREAM WORLD, BUT INSTEAD CALLS A MAN SHE REGRETS NOT HAVING CONTACTED IN TEN YEARS TIME.
MIKE? IT'S KIM HENDRIKSON. REMEMBER?

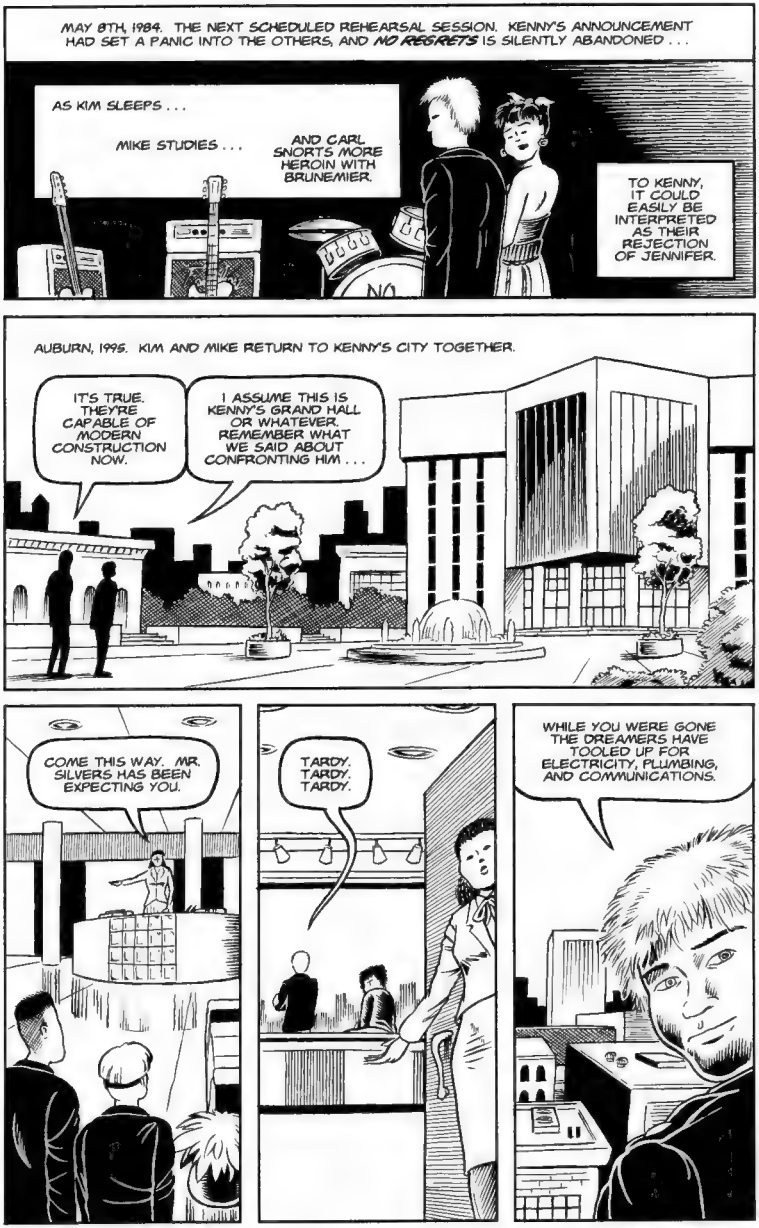
NO REGRETS {4} dream lovers & lover's dreams

MIKE IS HAVING THE SAME BAD/GOOD DREAMS, AND RECEIVES A CALL FROM A WOMAN HE REGRETS LEAVING BEHIND WITH HIS COLLEGE DAYS.
OF COURSE. BUT . . . DIDN'T I JUST SEE YOU?
YES. I WAS AFRAID TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE DREAMS. WE'RE REALLY HAVING THEM TOGETHER, AREN'T WE?
I GUESS SO. THIS MIGHT SOUND WEIRD, BECAUSE THIS WHOLE THING IS COMPLETELY SCARY, BUT . . . IT'S KINDA COOL, TOO, ISN'T IT?
WELL, YEAH. I MEAN, I'M SEEING YOU AGAIN.
YEAH. UH OH. CAROL'S HOME. I GOTTA GO.
OKAY, BUT LISTEN! IF WE DREAM IT AGAIN, WE HAVE TO CONFRONT KENNY ABOUT THIS . . . SLAVERY OR WHATEVER.
OKAY. BYE!


MAY 6TH, 1984. THE FINAL REHEARSAL OF NO REGRETS.
I'M TIRED. I DON'T FEEL LIKE PRACTICING.
KIM IS PLAGUED WITH APATHY. SHE HAS CHANGED HER MAJOR THREE TIMES, AND DOESN'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT RESUMES AND OTHER POST GRADUATION CONCEPTS.
LET'S JUST GET IT OVER WITH. I'VE GOT TOO MUCH STUDYING TO DO.
MIKE IS PLAGUED WITH STRESS. HE LIVES AND BREATHES IT, AND GUARDS THE AFFECTIONS HE FEELS FOR KIM.
THE DAMNED
YEAH, REALLY.
CARL IS LOADED WITH HEROIN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE, AND IS FEELING VERY, VERY HAPPY.
Regrets

THE ONLY ONE FOCUSED ON THE BAND, IS KENNY.
LET'S MAKE SOME NOISE!
I KNOW ABOUT MY 'NO OUTSIDERS' RULE. BUT I JUST HAD TO BRING JENNIFER. WE'RE MADE FOR EACH OTHER, MAN.
HI.
DAMNED
IT'S COOL.


PLUS I'VE GOT AN ANNOUNCEMENT. WE'VE GOT A GIG DOWN IN SACRAMENTO, OPENING FOR HUSKER DU!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU STIFFS? DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID?
UH... THAT'S GREAT.


MAY 8TH, 1984. THE NEXT SCHEDULED REHEARSAL SESSION. KENNY'S ANNOUNCEMENT HAD SET A PANIC INTO THE OTHERS, AND NO REGRETS IS SILENTLY ABANDONED . . .
AS KIM SLEEPS . . .
MIKE STUDIES . . .
AND CARL SNORTS MORE HEROIN WITH BRUNEMIER.
TO KENNY, IT COULD EASILY BE INTERPRETED AS THEIR REJECTION OF JENNIFER.
AUBURN, 1995. KIM AND MIKE RETURN TO KENNY'S CITY TOGETHER.
IT'S TRUE. THEY'RE CAPABLE OF MODERN CONSTRUCTION NOW.
I ASSUME THIS IS KENNY'S GRAND HALL OR WHATEVER. REMEMBER WHAT WE SAID ABOUT CONFRONTING HIM . . .
COME THIS WAY. MR. SILVERS HAS BEEN EXPECTING YOU.
TARDY. TARDY. TARDY.
WHILE YOU WERE GONE THE DREAMERS HAVE TOOLED UP FOR ELECTRICITY, PLUMBING, AND COMMUNICATIONS.

AND HOW 'BOUT THOSE INCENTIVE PLANS?
VERY COMPELLING, PAL. VERY COMPELLING. WHAT DO YOU SAY WE UP PRODUCTION A NOTCH?
NO REGRETS!!!
KLOP
WHY NOT GIVE THEM THE DREAMS THEY WANT INSTEAD OF THREATENING THEM WITH HORRORS?
THAT'S WHERE THE TWO OF YOU COME IN. FIRST THE MASTERY, THEN THE BENEVOLENCE.
WHAT?
THE DREAMERS COME TO BUILD MY CITY. CARL SERVES AS A POLICEMAN, TO INSURE THEY STAY FOCUSED.
NOW THAT THE TWO OF YOU HAVE FINALLY AGNOWLEDGED YOUR MUTUAL LOVE, YOU WILL ADD ELEMENTS OF JOY AND SEXUALITY TO OUR BEACON.
"AND MILLIONS WILL ARRIVE, EAGER TO SERVICE OUR VISION."
JUST ONE THING. YOU NEED TO STOP HANGING OUT IN THE WAKING WORLD SO MUCH.

CONTINUED...

MAKING

It's obvious that what was in the suitcase was Heroin... a ton.
Soul? How do you put a soul in a suitcase? That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard!
It was God
Wrong. Everyone knows it was a zippo lighter.

Paul Fricke

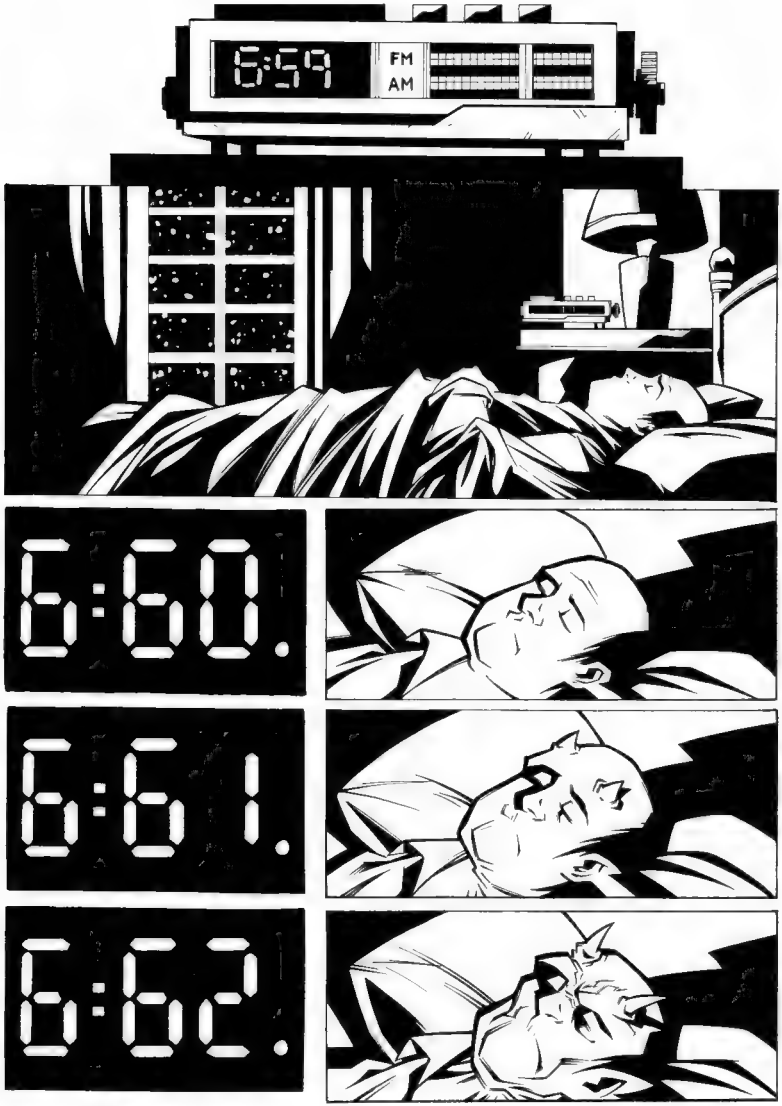
CONTACT

©1996

IN THE SHAPE ALONE...
THERE IS A SENSUALITY...
A SUGGESTION OF PASSION
THE CURVES...
THE TAUTNESS OF THE STRINGS...
MY BROTHER JOKES ABOUT IT...
NUDGING ME AND WINKING...
HE CALLS HER MY "MISTRESS"
IT'S RIGHT IN A WAY

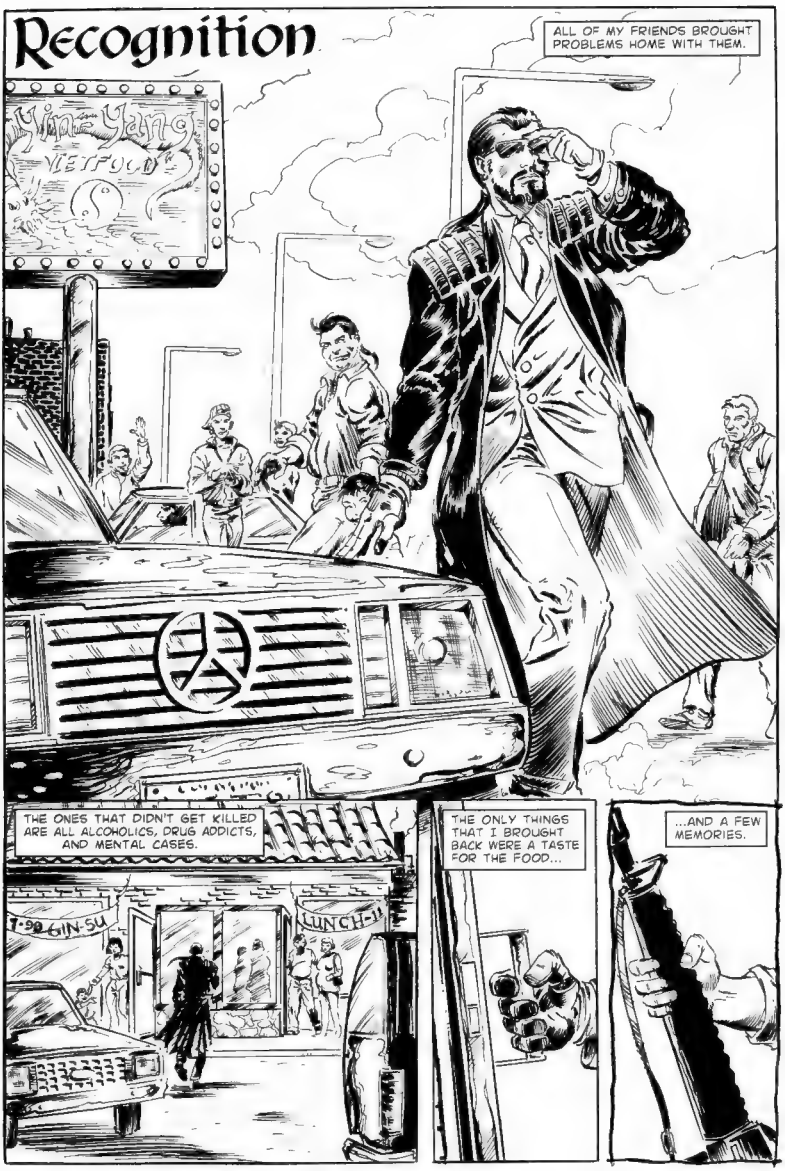
..E BECOME OBSESSED
I USED TO THINK IT WAS THE WAY YOUNG WOMEN DRESSED IN BLACK EVENING GOWNS WRAPPED THEIR ARMS AND LEGS LOVINGLY AROUND IT AS THEY PLAYED...
TENDERLY EMBRACING IT...
BUT IT'S MORE THAN JUST THAT, I REALIZE NOW.
REPLACES MY COLDNESS WITH BEAUTIFUL PASSION
I LISTEN TO WHAT SHE HAS TO SAY...
AND SHE COMFORTS ME
THERE IS ROMANCE IN IT'S SILKY VOICE.
A LONGING
IT ALLOWS ME TO FEEL ALIVE

matthew smith • michael gaydos


6:59
FM
AM
6:60.
6:61.
6:62.

6:63.
6:64.
6:65.
6:66

BEEP!
BEEP!
BEEP!
BEEP!
CLICK
SNOOZE
FM
AM
ALARM CLOCK OF THE BEAST
THE CREEP
CREATED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY
PHILLIP HESTER
INKED BY
JIM MAHFOOD
LETTERED BY GARY PETERSON
SPECIAL THANKS TO RON JOHANNSEN

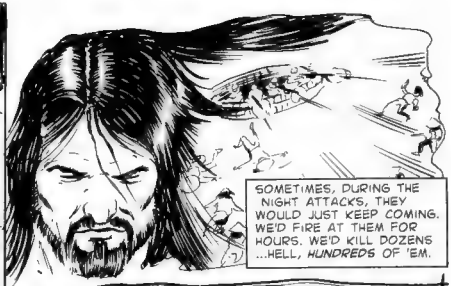

Recognition
ALL OF MY FRIENDS BROUGHT PROBLEMS HOME WITH THEM.
Yin Yang
VIETFOOD
THE ONES THAT DIDN'T GET KILLED ARE ALL ALCOHOLICS, DRUG ADDICTS, AND MENTAL CASES.
T-98 GIN-SU
LUNCH-11
THE ONLY THINGS THAT I BROUGHT BACK WERE A TASTE FOR THE FOOD...
...AND A FEW MEMORIES.

TRASK!
COME ON, DAMMIT!
U.S.
SAND BAG
THERE'S A BUNCH OF 'EM, SARGE! WE GOTTA FALL BACK!

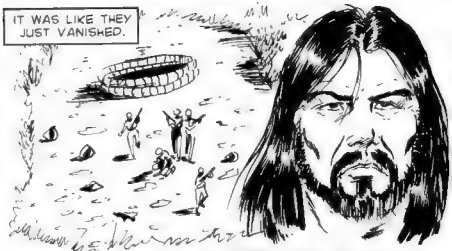
SARGE?

IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT, SIR?
YES, EVERYTHING'S JUST...
FINE.
VERY GOOD, SIR. I'LL GET YOUR CHECK.

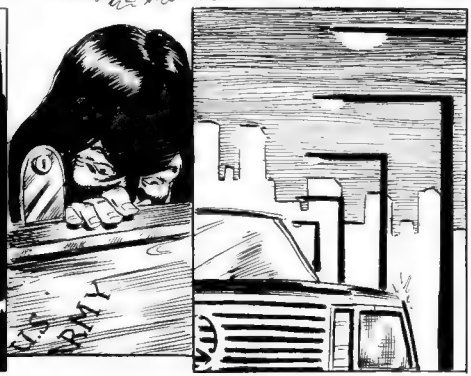
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE, BUT IT'S THE ONLY EXPLANATION.
U.S. ARMY

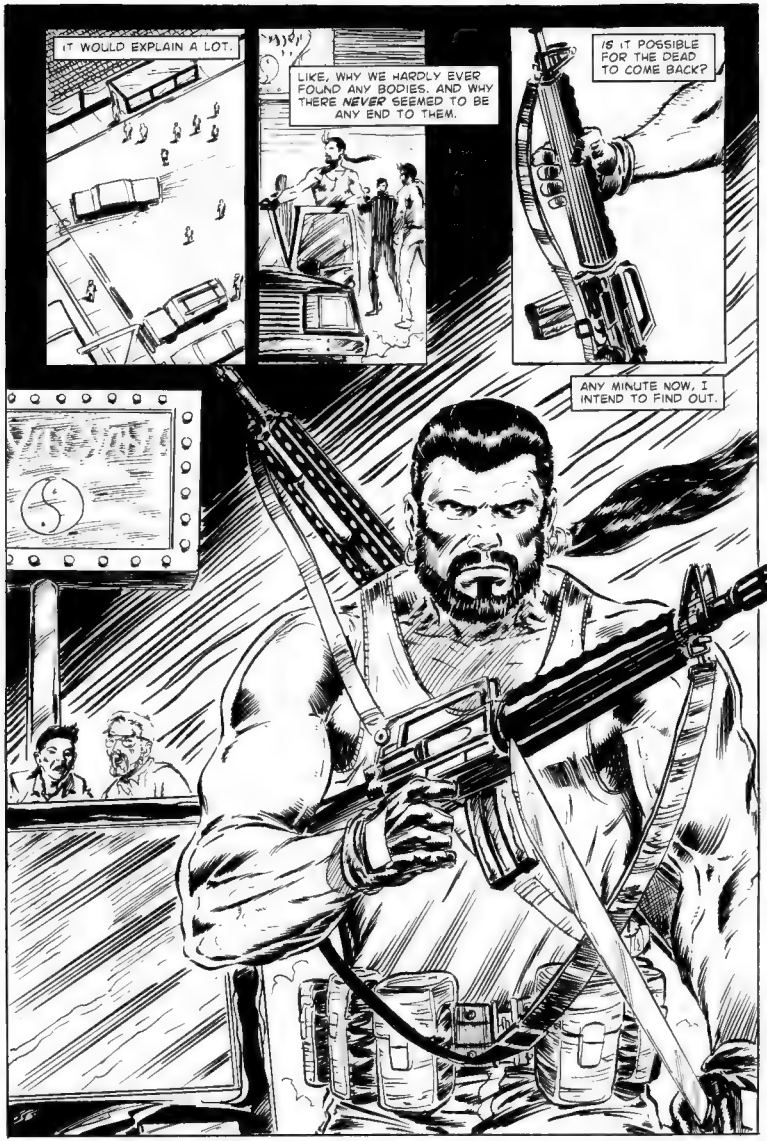

SOMETIMES, DURING THE NIGHT ATTACKS, THEY WOULD JUST KEEP COMING. WE'D FIRE AT THEM FOR HOURS. WE'D KILL DOZENS ...HELL, HUNDREDS OF 'EM.

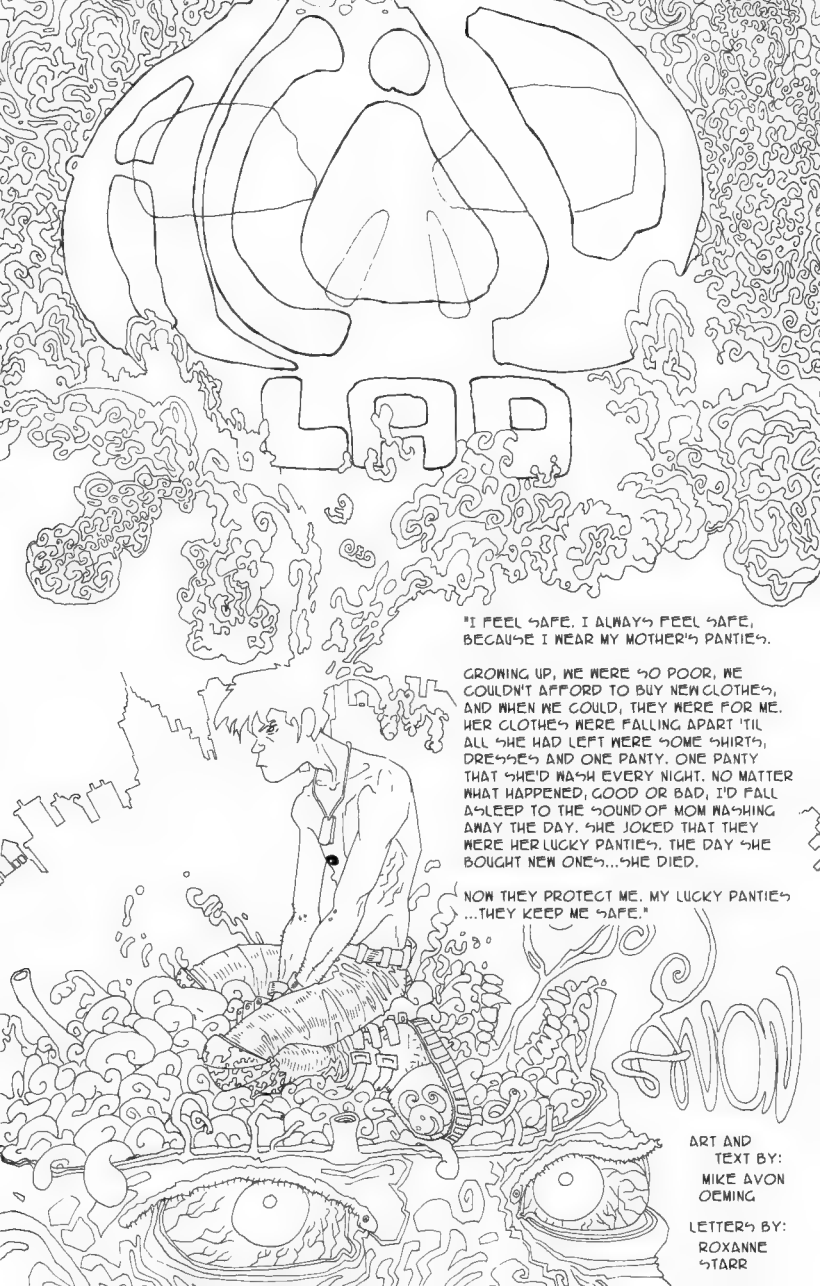
BUT WHEN THE PATROLS WENT OUT IN THE MORNING, THEY HARDLY EVER FOUND ANY BODIES.


IT WAS LIKE THEY JUST VANISHED.

OR THEY GOT UP AND WALKED AWAY.



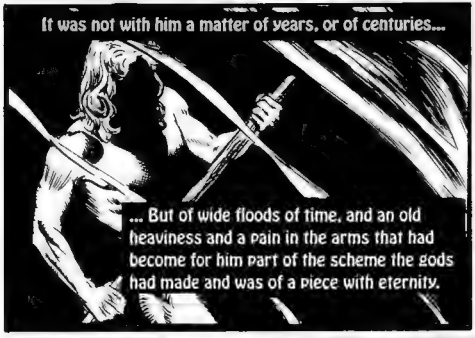

IT WOULD EXPLAIN A LOT.
LIKE, WHY WE HARDLY EVER FOUND ANY BODIES. AND WHY THERE *NEVER* SEEMED TO BE ANY END TO THEM.
IS IT POSSIBLE FOR THE DEAD TO COME BACK?
ANY MINUTE NOW, I INTEND TO FIND OUT.

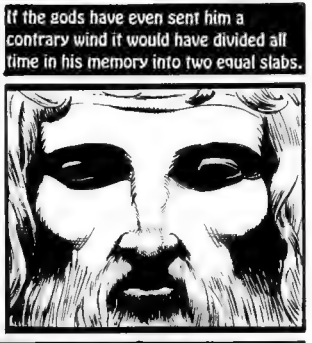

"I FEEL SAFE. I ALWAYS FEEL SAFE, BECAUSE I WEAR MY MOTHER'S PANTIES.
GROWING UP, WE WERE SO POOR, WE COULDN'T AFFORD TO BUY NEW CLOTHES, AND WHEN WE COULD, THEY WERE FOR ME. HER CLOTHES WERE FALLING APART 'TIL ALL SHE HAD LEFT WERE SOME SHIRTS, DRESSES AND ONE PANTY. ONE PANTY THAT SHE'D WASH EVERY NIGHT. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENED, GOOD OR BAD, I'D FALL ASLEEP TO THE SOUND OF MOM WASHING AWAY THE DAY. SHE JOKED THAT THEY WERE HER LUCKY PANTIES. THE DAY SHE BOUGHT NEW ONES...SHE DIED.
NOW THEY PROTECT ME. MY LUCKY PANTIES ...THEY KEEP ME SAFE."
ART AND TEXT BY: MIKE AVON OEMING
LETTERS BY: ROXANNE STARR

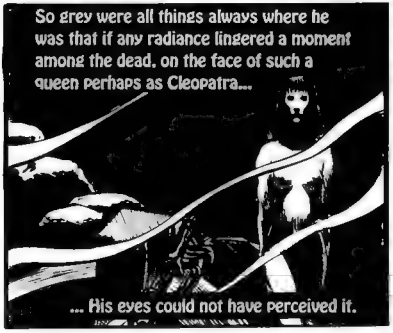
CHARON

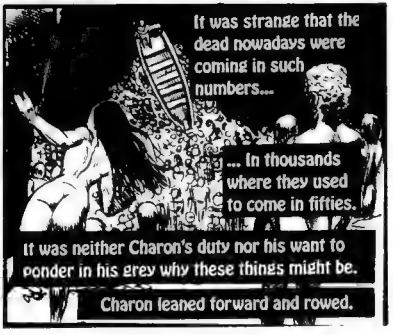
BY·LORD·DUNSANY

ADAPTATION BY CORY HINMAN


It was not with him a matter of years, or of centuries...
... But of wide floods of time, and an old heaviness and a pain in the arms that had become for him part of the scheme the gods had made and was of a piece with eternity.

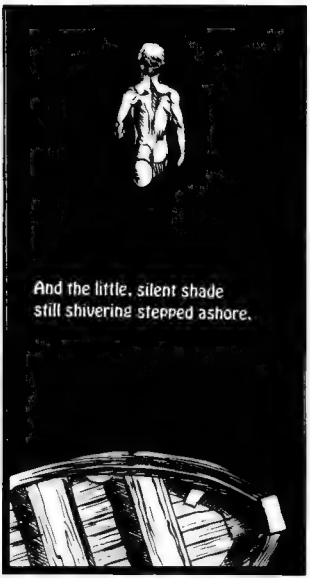



So grey were all things always where he was that if any radiance lingered a moment among the dead, on the face of such a queen perhaps as Cleopatra...
... His eyes could not have perceived it.


It was strange that the dead nowadays were coming in such numbers...
... In thousands where they used to come in fifties.
It was neither Charon's duty nor his want to ponder in his grey why these things might be.
Charon leaned forward and rowed.

Then no one came for a while.
It was not usual for the gods to send no one down from earth for such a space.
But the gods knew best.
Then one man came alone.
PLASH
The gods knew best.
Only one passenger.
And great and weary Charon rowed on and on beside the little, silent, shivering ghost.
And the sound of the river was like a mighty sigh that grief in the beginning had sighed among her sisters, and that could not fail like the echoes of human sorrows falling on earthly hills, but was as old as time and the pain in Charon's arms.

Then the boat from the slow, grey river loomed up to the coast of dis.


And the little, silent shade still shivering stepped ashore.

And Sharon turned the boat to go back to the world.

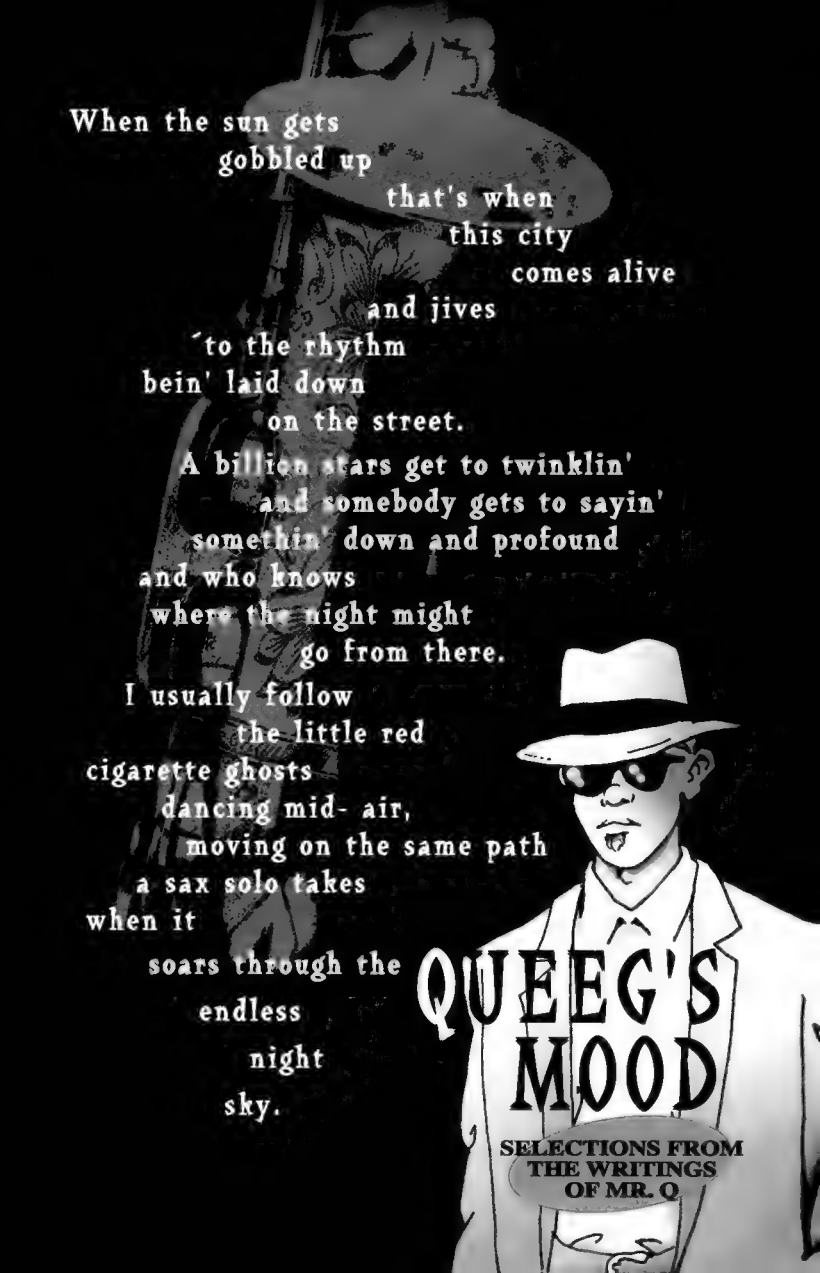
Then the little shade spoke that had been a man.
I AM THE LAST

THUD

No one had ever made Charon smile before.
No one before had ever made him weep.

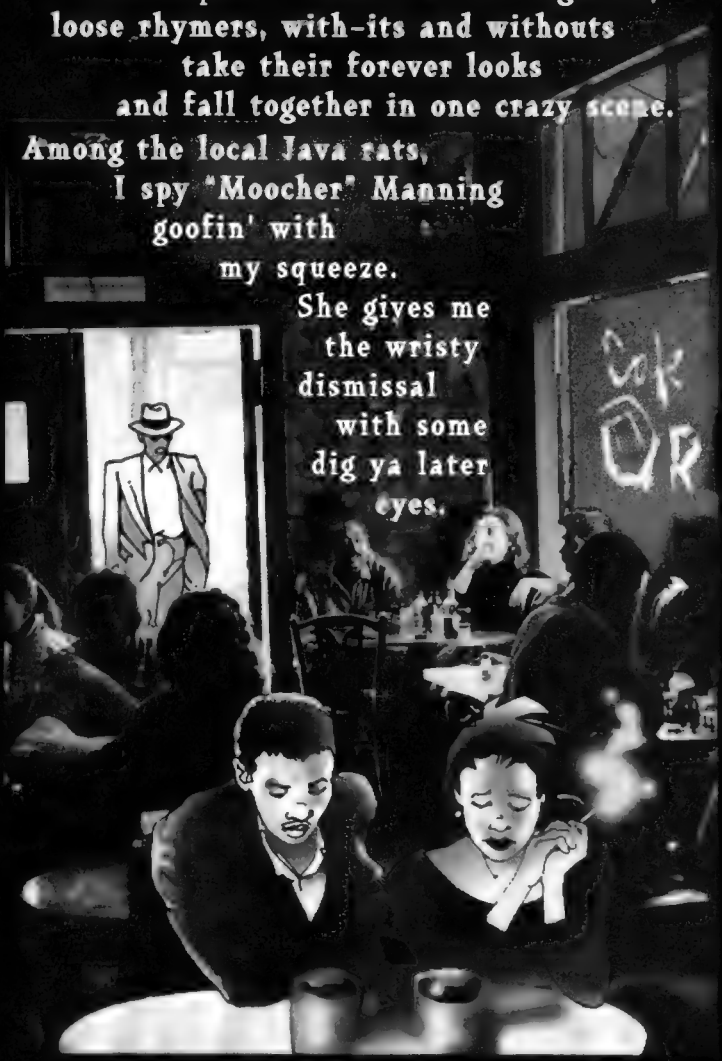
With apologies to
Jerry Stoll and Culver Pictures

When the sun gets
gobbled up
that's when
this city
comes alive
and jives
'to the rhythm
bein' laid down
on the street.
A billion stars get to twinklin'
and somebody gets to sayin'
somethin' down and profound
and who knows
where the night might
go from there.
I usually follow
the little red
cigarette ghosts
dancing mid- air,
moving on the same path
a sax solo takes
when it
soars through the
endless
night
sky.



QUEEG'S MOOD

SELECTIONS FROM THE WRITINGS OF MR. Q


Cafe Orphee... where the all-nighters,
loose rhymers, with-its and withouts
take their forever looks
and fall together in one crazy scene.
Among the local Java rats,
I spy "Moocher" Manning
goofin' with
my squeeze.
She gives me
the wristy
dismissal
with some
dig ya later
eyes.

There is so much smoke in this room
I feel like I'm passing through a dream.
In the haze I can make out
the stark silhouette of the
cat on the case.

The one with the lean and hungry look
that don't go flip.
He plays the tune
that soon
becomes a standard.

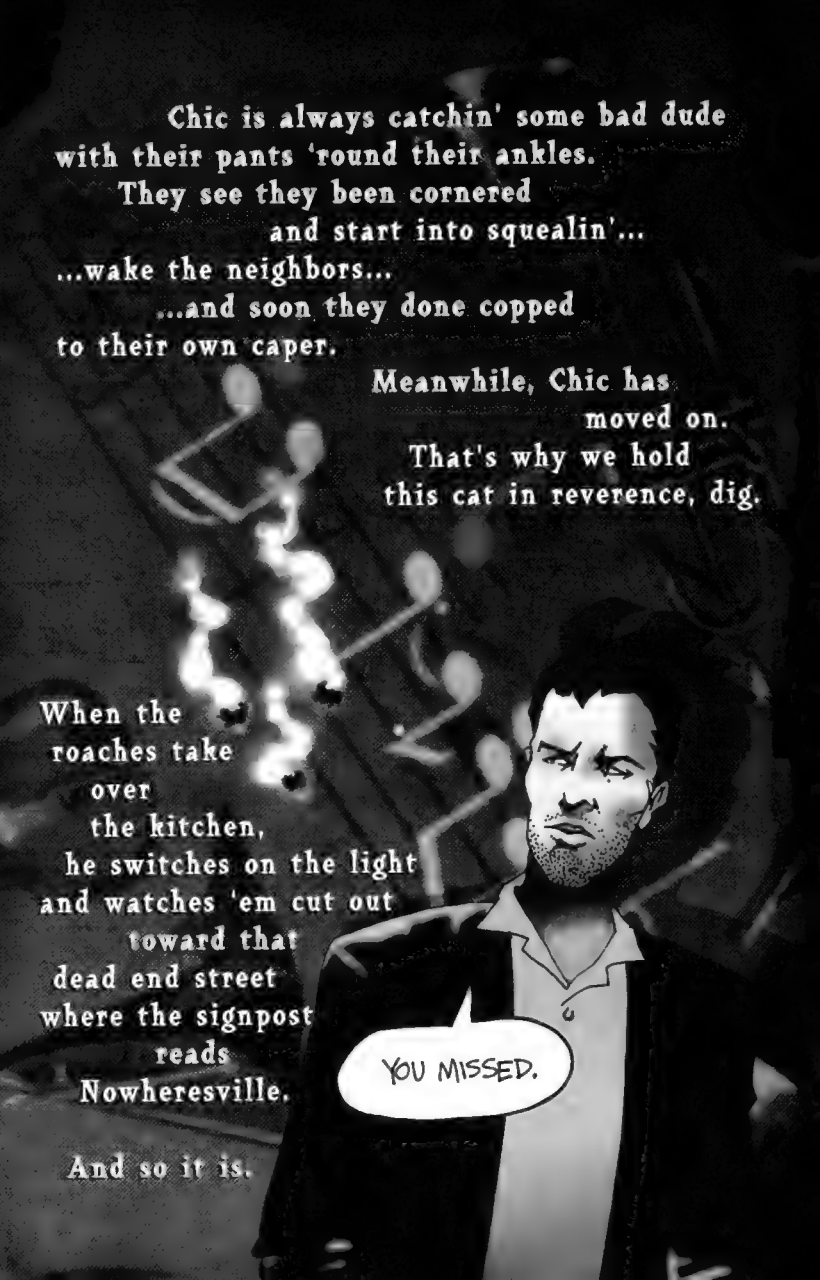
This cat is sometin' else.
He's the righteous one what uncovered
the "Down for Double Murder", dig.

The cops was lookin high and low
for the cat what done the deed,
but Chic knew the score in a tick.
I'm not sayin' he blew the whistle
on the perpetrator.

Don't get me wrong, man...
he may come off like the "Crime"Beat...
...the coffee house cop...
...but it ain't like that.

This cat just has a natural curiosity.

He digs up truth
like it was buried treasure.


Chic is always catchin' some bad dude with their pants 'round their ankles.
They see they been cornered and start into squealin'...
...wake the neighbors...
...and soon they done copped to their own caper.
Meanwhile, Chic has moved on.
That's why we hold this cat in reverence, dig.
When the roaches take over the kitchen,
he switches on the light and watches 'em cut out toward that dead end street where the signpost reads Nowheresville.
And so it is.
YOU MISSED.

He thinks love is an addiction.
She thinks murder... is a game.

"Ricketts is creating a realer-than-real era steeped in culture... a great story... It's an amlagam of murder and mood...."
-Comic Shop News

CALIBER COMICS PRESENTS

NOWHERESVILLE

Death By Starlight

A 4-part crime cocktail w/ a beatnik twist. March '96

Visit our website at-http://nowheresville.com

all it meant was that we were scared shitless most of the time.

Funny how some kids are a bully-magnet.

But it's weird-the school was 80% black, and I remember most this one white jerk...

Steve ignored him.
I was getting really pissed, though.
Y'know how sometimes you do things without thinking?
Well, not me...
FAP!
at least, not until then.
I'm convinced that was the single coolest moment of my life.
I swear, his look lasted for a full five seconds!
He kept giving us crap from the back of the bus, but I didn't care...
I felt like a hero or something.
My brother was actually mad at me for 'butting in.'
Go figure.

JACKKNIFE

by Scott A. Gilbert

RRR
ROA
JERK!
SCREEEE
NO
SCREE
BAM!

GOD DAMN IT!

AW HEY, SIS! Y'GOTTA HELP ME! THEY SHOT ME!
S-SHOT YOU?
YES, MA'AM! THEY NAILED MY POOR OL' BUTT JUST LIKE IN 'NAM! JUST LIKE IN THAT HUE CITY!
WHO— WHO SHOT YOU? WHY?
SNIPERS, SIS!
WUK
SNU-
KLAM!

KRAK!
SKRASH!
SHIT! WHERE'D SHE GO?
BOBBY, MAN. THIS IS GOIN ALL WRONG!
SHUT UP, PUNK! WE'LL GET HER! JUST KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN!
GO 'ROUND THE OTHER SIDE. I'LL CHECK THE CAB

HEY!
HERE SHE IS, MAN!!
WHUH?
BLAM
BOBBY!
BITCH!
OOWF!
BLAM

AAAA
AAA
AAAA
STOP
AHH-AAH-A-RUHH
IF YOU RUN.
I'LL KILL YOU

YOU GO TO HELL!
AAA
SCREEEE
NOOO
CRUNCH!

OH MY LORD!
JESUS. JESUS!
OH. GOD. WHAT DID I DO? WHAT DID I DO!
OH!
I-UH-YOUR FRIEND. HE..
THE WAY HE RAN OUT IN FRONT OF ME- I JUST COULDN'T STOP IN TIME!
I'M SO SORRY! I-I JUST.. I COULDN'T-

PLEASE DON'T HURT ME
OH, JESUS I'M SORRY, PLEASE DON'T HURT ME
THE END.

AMERICAN DILEMMA
STORY AND ART BY DEAN HASPIEL
DEAN IS A STRUGGLING NEW YORK CARTOONIST WHO HAS BEEN READING AMERICAN SPLENDOR EVER SINCE HARVEY PEKAR PUT OUT HIS FIRST BOOK COLLECTION IN 1986.
I SENT HARVEY SAMPLES OF MY WORK MONTHS AGO. WHY HASN'T HE WRITTEN ME BACK?
MAYBE HE DIDN'T LIKE THE "UGLY MAN" STORY. AFTER ALL, THE FIRST PAGE DOES START OFF WITH A WOMAN GETTING HER HEAD SHOVED INTO A PUBLIC TOILET.
RRIIPP
AT LEAST I SENT HIM SOME STORIES I DID FOR DUPLEX PLANET. WORKING WITH DAVID GREENBERGER IS CONSIDERED A PRESTIGIOUS HONOR.
"BUT, MAYBE HE THOUGHT IT WAS TOO STYLIZED."
TOO STYLIZED!

HE HIRED MY BUDDY JOSH NEUFELD, AND HE'S REALLY STYLIZED!
NOW THAT'S AN ARTIST!!!
I KNOW, I'LL CALL UP JOSH AND ASK HIS OPINION.
THAT MOMENT, IN CHICAGO:
HEY, DEAN... YEAH, I'M FINISHING UP THE JOYCE BRABNER STORY RIGHT NOW. SO, WHAT'S UP, PAL?
WHAT DO YOU THINK I SHOULD DO ABOUT HARVEY? I DON'T WANT TO LOOK LIKE I'M BEGGING.
I DON'T KNOW. WRITE HIM A LETTER. SOMETHING STRAIGHT FORWARD. LIKE HIS COMIC. DON'T ASK ME.
STRAIGHT FORWARD? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?!

P.O. Box 893
Acworth,GA
30101

Internet:
72164.1134@CompuServe

Olav Beemer
Brugakker 36-06
3704 LP Zeist
The Netherlands

Dear Joe,
Re: NEGATIVE BURN #29.

"Replacement God" was a nice, intricate and insightful story. The art was a mixture between realism and surrealism, but it fit right in with the writing, which was truly good and captivating. The captions served well in conveying upon the readers the feelings of the main character of this short tale, and the ending, though rather chaotic, was lovely ironic. Zander Cannon is quickly becoming a highly-regarded creator in my book!

As always with "Mr. Mamoulian," the installments are either funny or incomprehensible. This one undoubtedly was the latter, although strangely enough, I felt a smile force its way onto my lips while reading it. Hmm.

"Chimera" was brilliant, plain and simple. The artwork in particular stood out for me as powerful yet almost abstractly simple. The gray tones worked great with the featured characters and locations, and on top of that, the story itself was entertaining. That final page alone is worthy of being framed and being included in an art gallery. Both of my thumbs are up for Jim Frier and Mark Badger. If I had more thumbs, though, they would be up as well.

Maybe it's me, but "Pre-Road Dream" escaped me completely. Also, Ken Meyer's art didn't look as good as last issue.

"Paul Pry and the Plastic Cup," on the other hand, was good fun. As always, Paul Fricke manages to keep a weird kind of story light and enjoyable with his open and accessible style of artwork, while story-wise, a great almost tangible atmosphere has been created for eight pages in a row. Funny how our main character only says one single sentence during the whole short story. Well, a sentence ... I feel "Uh ... hi," doesn't really qualify as that either. Still, a great job here, too.

Bernie Mireault's attempt at a social statement in "Of the Spheres" was a bit over the top. While the simplistic, minimalistic artwork was just right for the job, this story shoved a moral message down everybody's throat. Not very subtle, at that, so I'll pass.

Great Terry Moore work in the "Sketchbook" feature, there! You might want to ask him about this lady in the leopard bikini, Kaippe the lost warrior. I'd truly like to see more of her in these pages!

"The Creep" was Phil Hester at his best. No dialogue, just powerful images to make sure the reader's imagination comes up with everything else needed to make it into a very good and very

Steve Combs
74260.2246@compuserve.com

NEGATIVE BURN #29 — This is one of the best issues in quite a while. The highlights — Everyone knows I'm gaa-gaa for THE REPLACEMENT GOD, so the lead story is a fave. "Chimera" by Jim Frier is a great little story, made all the greater by *wonderful* Mark Badger art. "Paul Pry & the Plastic Cup" kept me interested. "Of the Spheres" by Bernie Mireault was dead brilliant. The Terry Moore sketchbook pages were wonderful. Another episode of "The Creep" by Hester is much appreciated. Neat art this time 'round. Part one of "The Factor" was very nice, by Nat Gertler & Adam Rex et al. A nice reporter's-eye-view of the superhero thing. All in all, a very solid package and worth the $3.95 and then some.

Glad you liked NB #29, Steve. For you readers out there who haven't tried out Zander Cannon's excellent REPLACEMENT GOD series from Amaze Ink/Slave Labor, shame on you! Go out and buy up all the issues you can find! There should be four issues out by the time you read this. Also, Phil Hester's THE CREEP will become a regular continuing series from Caliber Comics this July, so don't forget to ask your local retailer to order it! In addition, Jim Frier's CHIMERA is gearing up for a mini-series later this year with Phil Hester (the man's everywhere) on the art. More on that as it gets closer to being scheduled.

smooth production.

The final two features of this issue weren't my cup of tea, I'm afraid to say, but still, this very issue ends up as way above average, same as last issue. If this is a continuing trend, who knows how good issue #50 will be?!

Glad you like the new format, Olav. Let me take this opportunity to also announce that Phil Hester's THE CREEP will become a regular bi-monthly series from Caliber Comics starting in July. Mark Badger will also be bringing us his own title, MARKS AND ANGLES, around October. Mark's collaborator on "Chimera," Jim Frier, is also hard at work on a couple of upcoming projects as well, so keep your eye out for his efforts. Good things just keep coming to Caliber.

Ross Peterson
18442 California Ave.
Homewood, IL 60430

Hey Joe,

Enjoyed the last few issues of NEGATIVE BURN. Hope to see more of the David Engel character from "The Kiss Off" by Hudnall and Bendis.

"Suburban Nightmares" was a decent series. "John Robbins and Me" had a nice punchline. Verheiden's "Favorite Song" was one of the strangest stories seen in a long time. "Of the Spheres" was a neat piece. "The Factor: Exposure" is an interesting take on crimefighters and witnesses.

Like the new format. Your writers and artists always have an edge. They should take a shot at doing political or editorial-type cartoons for NEGATIVE BURN.

Carry on.

Editorial and political cartoon, huh? That's an interesting idea. I don't see why it wouldn't work in NB, everything else does. Anybody out there want to these kind of cartoons?

Eric Gero
816 North Ave. #66
Los Angeles, CA 90042

Dear Joe,

I would like to compliment you and Andrew Robinson on your "cover story" of NEGATIVE BURN #28. I thoroughly enjoyed the "Dusty Star" story. I thought it was well written and extremely well drawn. I only have one complaint, it was too short. Please make a full length comic of "Dusty Star."

I don't know where you came up with the eclectic mix of cyberpunk meets the old west of Sergio Leone but please keep it up!

Well, your plea will be answered, Eric. DUSTY STAR #1 is in the works even as I write this. Watch this space for the announcement of the shipping date for the ongoing series.

Julian Eales
18 Dryden Street
Wellingborough
Northants
NN9 6EL
England

Dear Joe,

I'm not much of one for writing to letters pages, so I'll give you a personal rundown of my highlights from the last few NEG BURNS. In #26, "Stubbs the Cat," "Sandy," and "The Kiss Off" rang my bell. In #27, I found "Bad Morals" much more to my taste than Michael Avon Oeming's work on DREDD. "John Robbins and Me" struck a few personal chords from my own youth (as I'm sure it did with a lot of us readers). "The Roadie's Tale" reminded me of REPO MAN towards the end. Can't think why. "Pain" was pretty funky, too. I can't say that "Nightvenger" was the Axis Comics project I most wanted to see resurrected, and on this outing I haven't really changed my mind. "Lionel's Lament" was powerful, yet simple. #28 has to rate as my favorite overall issue for a while, since I can't pick a single strip that I didn't get something from. Top of the heap were "Dusty Star," "Mr. Mamoulian" and "Juju Eyes." #29 was more of a mixed bag, but I enjoyed "The Replacement God," "Mr. Mamoulian" (two great months in a row!), "Paul Pry" and "The Creep."

Glad you've found something in every issue that strikes your fancy, Julian. Well, if "Nightvenger" wasn't the Axis Comics project you most wanted to see then what was? I'm just curious.

Mike Leonard
MLeon99@aol.com

Joe,

First, I'd like to say that NEGATIVE BURN is currently running neck-and-neck with Joe Linsner's DAWN for the title of my current favorite comic book. The reason for this is something I just realized while reading the latest issue: This is comics in their purest, most undiluted form. No crossovers, no gimmicks, no anal-retentive continuity—I can sit down and enjoy an issue of NB without having to rack my brains, trying to remember the last 30 issues' worth of continuity, or get to the end of the issue and realize I have to rush out and buy a copy of a title I don't normally collect to finish reading the story.

"The Replacement God": I've heard a lot about Zander Cannon's work in the press, but this is my first exposure to it, and I have to say I am impressed. 'Knute's Escapes' was a very unusual and original approach to storytelling, and I literally laughed out loud while reading it. Zander's art is wonderfully funny, on its own, but when coupled with the witty captions and dialogue, it just makes you laugh harder. I may just have to find the bucks to try an issue of REPLACEMENT GOD.

(By the way, I'd like to commend you on giving creators who already publish their work elsewhere some well-deserved exposure and promotion. It's this 'spirit of brotherhood' between independent creators that really makes me feel we will persevere, unlike the back-biting and name calling that goes on between mainstream creators and publishers. Of course, given the fact that many mainstream superhero comics are exactly the same product, with the only difference being the name, it's no wonder the quibbling goes on, but there's only so many times I can stomach opening CBG or reading a lettercol and hearing about the latest pissing match between Peter David and whichever Image creator he's got a beef with this week.)

"Chimera": Very cool. I really liked the computer-enhanced graphics in the artwork, and Mark Badger's work itself was very impressive. I'd like to see more of this.

"Paul Pry and the Plastic Cup": Another laugh-fest. Funny how most people consider actual 'comic' comics to be pretty much limited to 'funny animal' slapstick stuff—I'll take stuff like this over a bunch of anthromorphized animals any day. As a former apartment dweller myself, I can vouch that eavesdropping on the neighbors is a favorite pastime, especially when you're too broke to do anything else, and can't afford cable. Excellent work.

"Of The Spheres": This one, too, had humor, but it's a creepy kind of funny, like when you find yourself snickering at some ridiculous way a person died, and realize "Hey, I could go like that! " I've only recently discovered Bernie Mireault's work on THE JAM, and this was another impressive effort by him.

"Terry Moore Sketchbook": I've been debating whether or not to try Terry's STRANGERS IN PARADISE, which I've heard so much about, and this clinches it.

(Damn you, Joe — is this some kind of conspiracy to bankrupt me with all these great previews?!)

"The Creep": Very cool —I love 'silent' stories, sans dialogue (mostly because I can't write them myself). More of the Creep, please.

"The Factor": This was my favorite story this ish. I happen to like superhero comics, myself—it's just that there's so few really intelligent, well-produced hero books out there. This reminded me a lot of Kurt Busiek's excellent ASTRO CITY stories—not a rip-off, mind you, but the themes of looking at a hero through the eyes of the everyman are similar. And it's to be continued'! Awesome! (Glad I had #30 to read right afterwards, otherwise I might not have made it until the next issue.)

"Dear Judy Garland": Twisted—writing a letter to a dead celebrity. Great example of a one-pager, and perfect way to close out an issue.

If you haven't checked out Terry Moore's STRANGERS IN PARADISE than you're missing a treat! It's one of my favorite titles currently on the market—as is Kurt Busiek's ASTRO CITY. Good reading all around.

Tony Adams
INTERNET:
HobGad95@aol.com

Hi Joe,

I thought you'd like to know I like the new 64 page format.

"Paul Pry and the Plastic Cup" was a great read (being that we are all voyeurs to some extent) and I hope to see more of Mr. Fricke's work in the coming months.

Bernie Mireault is a master and there's not much more to say about that.

And with everyone turning to the independents the past couple of years looking for the next big thing I say that folks should look no further than Zander Cannon. THE REPLACEMENT GOD will be the most watched book in the months and years ahead. Crisp art and a wonderful story with many possibilities. I hope people give it a chance.

It seems everybody who has bothered to write in or call has liked the new format. Great, I think it's here to stay.

You'll be happy to hear that Paul Fricke is now a monthly contributor to NB and that Zander Cannon will be bringing us more of THE REPLACEMENT GOD in these pages on a more regular basis. The next appearance of Knute will be in NB #35 in May.

Andreas Koerver
Brusseler Str. 9
53117 Bonn
Germany

Dear Joe!

Back in 1993 I bought my first NEGATIVE BURN (#6). Besides being my first encounter with KILROY it contained a short by Phillip Hester, called "Conditioned," introducing a really strange character named "Icebaby." It was at the time and it still is one of the most powerful 4-pagers ever done in the comic form. And for everyone who shares this opinion, there's good news! "Icebaby" is back not only in one, but in two shorts in the pages of TABOO #9, the final chapter in this mind-blowing anthology's life, which was featuring some of the most innovative and controversial works for almost seven years. And Phillip Hester's "Icebaby" fits into this category well.

Hester meanwhile has also done a lot of other stuff, as completing his epic "Boneshaker," several more experimental shorts in NEGATIVE BURN, as "Witchfinger," "A Labor" or "The Methadone Club," and even more, working together with other fine writers, Alan Moore only being the best-known of them. And he doesn't stop surprising with great concepts for longer works as "Wet Work" or "The Creep." If not for Hester, why are people still buying SWAMP THING, which had some very exciting issues thanks to his contribution—but I really wish he's stop doing it, so he could focus on his powerful and original stuff.

Just take the short in NB #29. The story starts off with a bang. We will hear nothing more than sounds from now on, including our own, growing out of astonishment. Entering "The Creep," curious, playful, and Hester continues to play with these images for the rest of the tale. Curiosity and playfulness leads "The Creep" to the other place. Curiosity and playfulness—which is stronger within him than in all the children around—makes him try out things, unfolding the secrets that have everyone else paralyzed. The graphical storytelling is so controlled and masterful, it's a pleasure for the mind—as it is to experience the revelations of all the surprising moments being in the story development itself and in the graphical solutions Hester is choosing. What a damned fine piece of comic book storytelling!

Phillip Hester is one of a new generation of writers/artists, a group I would include Al Columbia and Max Andersson in (which is obvious), each of them with his own attempt experimenting with the borders of the medium, stretching them out, not too far away form each other in their topics.

I hope he will be doing a series on his own one day. Until then the shorts will have to do. Sigh!

Paul Chadwick might be green with a little envy for not having had Mireault's idea himself. Get his CONCRETE: THINK LIKE A MOUNTAIN. Bravo to Erickson and Fricke, too. One of the most beautiful sketchbooks in NEGATIVE BURN ever, done by Terry Moore! Ken Meyer Jr.'s short seemed to be written for a different book; it's only in this book's context, it works. I was rambling about the verve of Zander Cannon before. Action coming before thinking for his protagonists makes it a very funny read. NEGATIVE BURN #29 was my thing!

Thanks for featuring SHADES OF GRAY COMICS AND STORIES (Lady Luck). It's out there for so long and I had the impression no one's going to notice this fine book. While we're at it, you remember Teri S. Wood's WANDERING STAR? Well, in case anyone wants to order books there has been a change of address: PO Bo 817, Banning, CA 92220-0817. And there's only about 7500 copies of TABOO #9, so whoever's interested, better hurry.

Sorry I had to cut your letter a little, Andreas, but it's always nice to hear from you. Feel free to push any comics or creators you like in the NB letters page.

As you've probably already seen me announce before, Phil Hester will be doing THE CREEP as an ongoing, bi-monthly series starting in July. Phil's also doing the pencils on KILROY IS HERE #9, due out in April, so watch for that as well. We've also got a couple of projects in the works together, so more on that when it's gets finalized.

MOEBIUS™
COMICS

Here are just some of the highlights in the series...

The all-new, never before published installments of THE MAN FROM CIGURI.

The all-new ARZACH JAMS in which a variety of other popular artists illustrate their versions of the character.

and...

The never before published storyboards of INTERNAL TRANSFER.

Each issue 32-pages $2.95

CALIBER COMICS

Coming in **May 1996** from Caliber Comics

For Subscription Info write to Caliber at 11904 Farmington Rd., Livonia MI 48150.

Moebius, The Man from the Ciguri and Arzach, are registered trademarks of Starwatcher Graphics.